

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Status

Claims 1-14 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 9-14 have been rejected and claims 2-8 have been objected to as containing allowable subject matter but depending from a rejected base claim. By this amendment, claim 9 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claims 1-4, 7 and 10 are amended. Claim 1 is independent in form.

No new matter has been added by this Amendment.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1 and 9-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,426).

Applicants respectfully disagree with the characterization of the pending claims and of the prior art in the stated rejections and respectfully traverse these rejections.

Applicants have herein canceled claim 9, rendering the rejection as to this claim moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants have herein amended pending independent claim 1 to further clarify the claimed invention. Claim 1 is characterized by the press-fixing unit (described as the receive member 6c and biasing member 7c in Figs. 5 and 6, and the biasing member 6d and receive member 7d in Fig. 7). As described in the specification at page 14, lines 15-20, "The biasing member 7c pushes the document cover 6 and the hinge member 7 in an arrow "a" direction in Fig. 5 thereby shifts the backlash such that the positional relation between the document cover 6 and the hinge member 7 in an axial direction of the rotational axis therebetween is constant." (emphasis added). Claim 1 has been amended to recite "an axial

direction parallel with said first and second axes.” With this configuration, it is possible to prevent the movement between the hinge unit and the original pressing plate in the axial direction.

In contrast, the shapes of the links 44 and the cover member 86 in Lee et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,233,426) can limit rotation of the cover member 86 by using force applied in the direction perpendicular to an axis, defined by the two fourth pivots 108 and the two fourth holes 100, as a result of an operation of covering over a book as depicted in Figs. 9A and 9B. As described in column 5, line 59 to column 6, line 34, the two second ribs 110 engage with the two tops 112 or the plane 120 of the first rib 92, and the two back walls 114 abuts upon the rear wall 36, thereby limiting the rotation of the cover member 86. With this configuration, however, it is not possible to prevent the movement of the cover member 86 in the axial direction.

Thus, the present invention differs both in configuration and effect from Lee et al. Accordingly, we believe that the present invention is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by Lee et al.

For at least the foregoing reasons, the present invention is believed to be patentable over the prior art.

Dependent Claims

Applicants have not independently addressed the rejections of the dependent claims because Applicants submit that, as the independent claim from which the dependent claims depend is believed allowable for at least the reasons discussed *supra*, the dependent claims are believed allowable for at least similar reasons. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address such rejections should such response be necessary and appropriate.



AUTHORIZATION


The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, which may be required for this Amendment and Request for Reconsideration, or credit any overpayment or refund, to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-4821.

An early and favorable examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By:


Stephen J. Manetta
Registration No. 40,426

Mailing address:
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.
3 World Financial Center
New York, New York 10281-2101
(212) 415-8700 (Telephone)
(212) 415-8701 (Facsimile)